

SPECIES INCREMENT OF NEWLY RECORDED GENERA *Stemmops* (Aranea: Theridiidae) FROM INDIA

Anuradha Rajoria

Research Scholar, SGB Amravati University, Amravati - 444602.
anuradha.rajoria8@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Stemmops* O. P.-Cambridge, 1894, belonging to the family Theridiidae is being reported for the first time from Maharashtra, India. Male of *Stemmops* is being collected from comparatively dry area of Melghat region of Satpuda Range.

Keywords: Theridiidae, *Stemmops*, new record, Satpuda, Taxonomy

INTRODUCTION

Stemmops O. P.-Cambridge, 1894, belongs to the family Theridiidae and it is represented by 21 species worldwide, out of which 3 species are being recorded from Asia, namely *S. forcipes* Zhu, 1998, *S. nigradbomenus* Zhu, 1998 and *S. nipponicus* Zhu, 1998. No species is being reported from India till now.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Spider was collected by hand during December, 2014 from multiple use area of Melghats from Maharashtra, India. Photographs of live specimens were taken with Fugii camera. The material was preserved in 70% alcohol with all legs and pedipalp spread properly. Male pedipalp was cleared *in situ* with 1% KOH. All measurements are given in millimeters. Leg measurements are given in the order, leg number (Femur, Patella, Tibia, Metatarsus, Tarsus, total length). The terms used in the genital descriptions follow Levi (1982).

TAXONOMY

Theridiidae, Sundevall, 1833

Stemmops O. P.-Cambridge, 1894

Stemmops satpudaensis sp. nov.

(Plate:1, Figures A to H)

Type Specimen: Holotype (Male); collected from Melghats 8. ix. 2014 (N21°2', 77°21'), Anuradha Rajoria

Etymology: The species is named after my study area, Satpuda Landscape, from where the specimen was collected.

Diagnostic Characters: The palp of this species resembles that of *Stemmops nigradbomenus* Zhu, 1998, but with the following differences -

- The specimen shows 4 white spots on the abdomen,
- The embolus is comparatively lengthy and curved till the end and it runs along with the curved conductor,
- The theridioid tegular apophysis is not that much prominent and lightly sclerotised.

General Description: Medium sized, dark coloured, ecribellate spider with long, slender legs. Carapace light brown and slightly longer than wide, lacking any marks or bands. Distinct fovea. Eyes distinctly black. While Abdomen, longer than wide, tapering posteriorly, decorated with 4 white spots.

Carapace and Abdomen measurements of the male of *Stemmops satpudaensis* sp. nov.

Total length 3.16 mm, cephalothorax 1.16 mm long, 0.88 mm wide, abdomen 1.78 mm long, 0.85 mm wide, Pedicel 0.22 mm.

Carapace: Light brown, comparatively longer than wide. Carapace lacking any marking except brown lateral margins. Surface of carapace is smooth but shows small scattered black hairs. Cephalic and thoracic areas roughly demarcated. Fovea distinct.

Eyes: Ocular area slightly raised and the eyes are arranged in 2 rows. Anterior row of eyes recurved while posterior row procurved. Anterior medians and posterior medians are almost equal in size and equally spaced. Laterals placed closer but not conjoint. Presence of paired hair near both anterior and posterior lateral eyes. Ocular quadrangle nearly square. Clypeus normal, without any modifications and is 1/3 rd of the distance between the anterior medians.

Chelicerae: Moderately developed, elongated, brown, nearly parallel lateral sides, slightly broadened base, narrowing apically and finally ending in a small, transparent and needle like fang. Chelicerae quite broad, robust and protruding near the base and covering till half its length starting from base to apex. Chelicer furrow lacking any teeth. Maxillae grayish in appearance, elongated and provided with depleted scopular hairs. Labium appears to be fused with the sternum, labium lacking any scopular hairs but is furnished with scattered fine hairs.

Sternum: Light coloured, nearly triangular in shape, clothed with few hairs, absence of sinous sides, broadened apically with rudimentary concavity on both sides of labium. Sternum tapering posteriorly and ending beyond coxae IV.

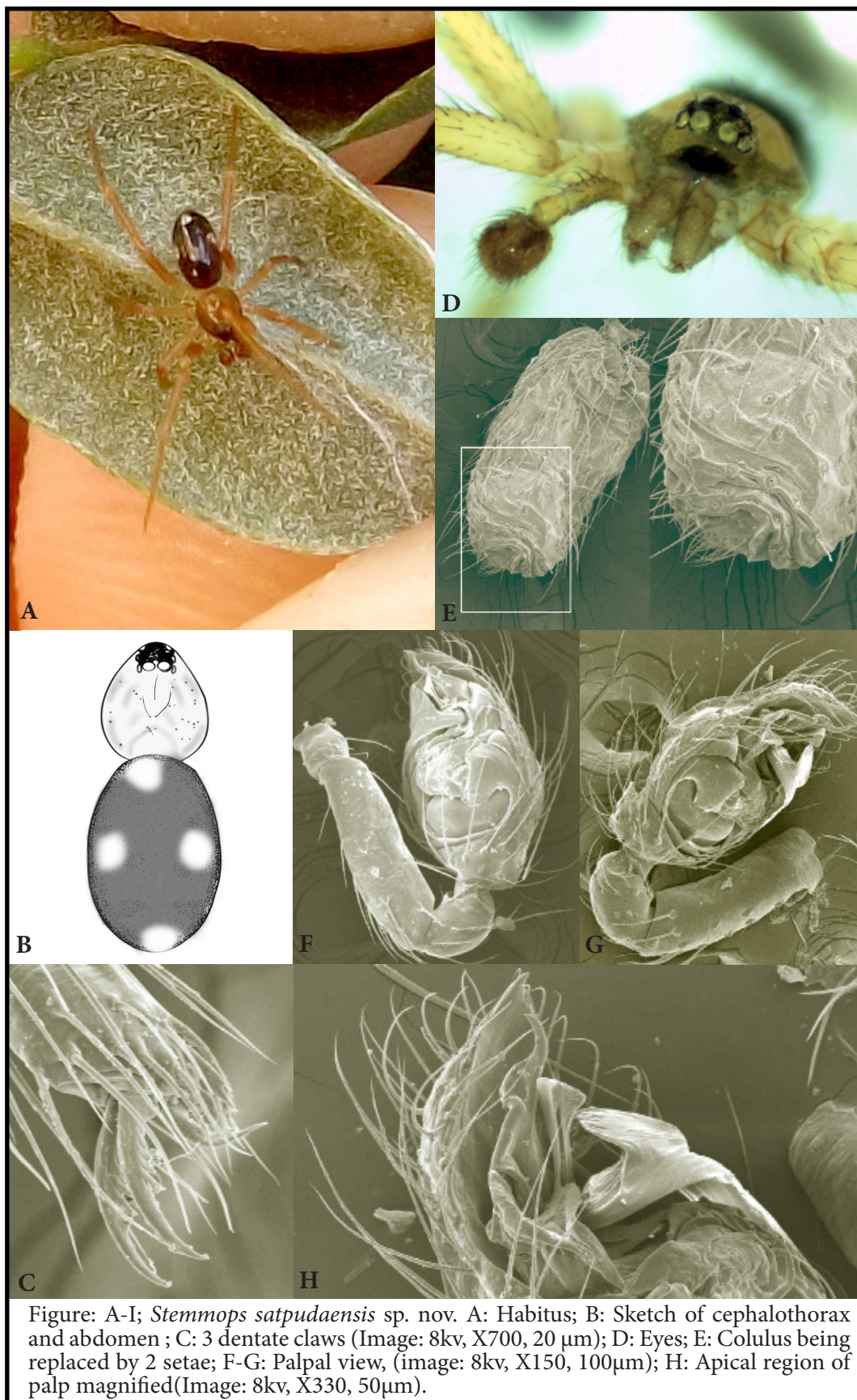
Legs: Long, 3 clawed, light brown coloured, furnished with spines. Absence of trichobothrial hairs on femur but single row can be seen on patella, tibia while double row on metatarsus and tarsus. Claws 3, superiors equal in size, without dentation while 3rd claw small and hook shaped. Leg formula: 4123.

Legs measurements of the male of *Stemmops satpudaensis* sp. nov. -

I(1.19, 0.27, 1.90, 1.34, 0.48, **5.18**); II(0.80, 0.42, 1.03, 1.00, 0.56, **3.81**); III(0.93, 0.34, 1.04, 1.00, 0.42, **3.73**); IV(1.41, 0.32, 1.92, 1.42, 0.56, **5.63**)

Abdomen: Black and elongated. Dorsum of abdomen decorated with 4 comparatively large white spots (1 middle of apical region, 2 at the middle of the dorsum on both the lateral sides while 1 at the middle of the posterior region). Dark coloured, unevenly sized hairs are being scattered on the dorsum. Ventrums, comparatively lighter in shade and furnished with scattered hairs. Spinnerets, well developed, enclosed within black coloured ring. All spinnerets are equal in size and without any outer modification. Colulus appears as a plate like structure, with presence of 2 white setae.

Palp: Palp well developed and quite neat. Patella showing slight longitudinal concavity on the ventral side and tibia without any modifications. Cymbium furnished with hairs and showing sclerotised apex. Embolus quite long, thin and is curved till the end. Embolus moves along with the curved conductor and then it curves separately near the end of the conductor. Theridioid tegular apophysis is not very prominent and lightly sclerotised.



DISCUSSION

Genus *Stemmops* O. P.-Cambridge, 1894, is being recorded for the first time from India with an addition of a new species *S. satpudaensis*. The specimen was collected from roadside area dripping from the twig of shrub and was suspended in air with its silk. The area was again searched for its female but was not found.

REFERENCES

- Levi, H. W. 1967. Cosmopolitan and pantropical species of theridiid spiders (Araneae: Theridiidae). *Pacific Insects*, 9: 175-186.
- Levi, H. W. 1964. The spider genera *Stemmops*, *Chrosiothes*, and the new genus *Cabello* from America. *Psyche*, Cambridge 71: 73-92.
- Simon, E. 1897d. On the spiders of the island of St Vincent. III. *Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London*, 1897: 860-890.
- Zhu, M. S. 1998. Fauna Sinica: Arachnida: Araneae: Theridiidae. *Science Press, Beijing*, xi+ 436 pp.